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**HANFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 78-MONTH PRISON TERM FOR
POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that the Honorable Anthony W. Ishii, U.S. District Judge in Fresno, California sentenced MUFLEH MOHAMED SALEH, 21, of Hanford, California to a term of imprisonment of 78 months as a result of his conviction for possession of visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. The court also imposed a term of supervised release of 36 months and a penalty assessment of \$100. Upon release from prison, he will be required to register as a sex offender, and not have any contact with persons under age 18 without prior approval of a federal probation officer.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Fresno, California

According to court documents filed in the case, SALEH came to the attention of the FBI on July 12, 2005, when the agency's New Orleans, Louisiana office was conducting an undercover operation using the file-sharing program Limewire. Agents determined that an individual, subsequently identified as SALEH, had made available for public access at least five images of known child pornography. The lead was forwarded to the Fresno FBI office which identified SALEH and determined that he was accessing the Internet through a connection provided by the Kings County (California) Office of Education. Agents obtained a search warrant for the defendant's residence and executed it July 20, 2005. The defendant was arrested that day when agents determined that he possessed hundreds of images of children under age eighteen engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David L. Gappa, who prosecuted the case, SALEH admitted, as part of his plea agreement, that he possessed images of prepubescent children engaged in sexually explicit conduct, that some of the images depicted violence or sadistic or masochistic conduct, that he possessed more than 600 images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and that he used a computer during the commission of his offense.

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